

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(Attorney Docket No. VTIP 00.140)

In re Application of:) Appln. No.: 10/029,840
) Confirmation No.: 5348
Xiang-Jin Meng *et al.*) Group Art Unit: 1648
) Examiner: Donna C. Wortman, Ph.D.
Filed: December 31, 2001) Paper No.: 18

For: AVIAN HEPATITIS E VIRUS, VACCINES AND METHODS OF
PROTECTING AGAINST AVIAN HEPATITIS-SPLENOMEGALY
SYNDROME AND MAMMALIAN HEPATITIS E

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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AMENDMENT

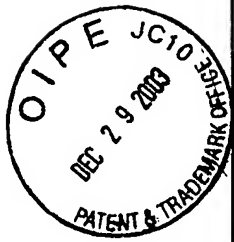
Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Office communication mailed September 26, 2003, please amend the above-referenced patent application pursuant to the following instructions and consider the remarks in a favorable light.

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In accordance with the revised amendment format under the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, the amendment to the claims and a complete listing of all claims in the application begin on a separate sheet to facilitate separate indexing and electronic scanning of each part of the amendment document for placement in an e-file wrapper. As required, only the claim number and status indicate any cancelled or withdrawn claim. Due to the length of the text of all pending claims, the amendment is placed in the below Appendix and incorporated herein by reference. Kindly amend the claims as highlighted therein.

The amendment removes the nonelected subject matter from the claims and improves the readability of the claims to expedite matters towards an early allowance.



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TRANSMITTAL LETTER

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Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith in the above-referenced patent application is an Amendment with an attachment. No additional fee is required for the amendment.

Kindly make note of the change in attorney docket number to VTIP 00.140. This change was formally submitted to the Office on February 18, 2003.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,
VIRGINIA TECH INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTIES, INC.

Date: December 26, 2003

By: Anne M. Rosenblum
Anne M. Rosenblum
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 30,419

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on December 26, 2003 with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Anne M. Rosenblum
Anne M. Rosenblum